

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

C 1-16. (Cancel)

17. (Currently Amended) A mat comprising:

at least one first layer of at least one strand formed of filaments that are at least partly opened; and

at least one second layer of at least one strand formed of filaments ~~that are at least partly opened~~,

wherein said at least one first layer is at least partly opened by subjecting the at least one first layer to a flow of fluid and wherein said at least partly opened at least one first layer and superposed on said at least one second layer are superposed.

18. (Currently Amended) A mat comprising:

at least one first layer of at least one strand formed of filaments that are at least partly opened; and

at least one second layer of at least one strand formed of filaments ~~that are at least partly opened~~ which are held together within the strand,

wherein ~~the~~ said at least one ~~second~~ first layer has a filament dispersion gradient.

19. (Currently Amended) The mat according to Claim 18, wherein the at least one strand of the at least one first layer and the at least one strand of the at least one second layer are formed of ~~reinforcing~~ filaments of at least one of a reinforcing material and an organic material.

20. (Previously Presented) The mat according to Claim 18, wherein the at least one strand of the at least one first layer and the at least one strand of the at least one second layer are continuous strands.

21. (Currently Amended) A composite comprising:

at least one of an organic material and an inorganic material; and

at least one mat comprising:

at least one first layer of at least one strand formed of filaments that are at least partly opened; and

at least one second layer of at least one strand formed of filaments ~~that are at least partly opened~~,

wherein said at least one first layer is at least partly opened by subjecting the at least one first layer to a flow of fluid and wherein said at least partly opened at least one first layer and said at least one second layer are superposed.

22. (New) A mat comprising:

at least one first layer of at least one strand formed of filaments that are at least partly opened; and

at least one second layer of at least one strand of filaments,

wherein at least one binder in the form of a liquid is deposited onto said at least one first layer after said at least one first layer has been at least partly opened and/or at the same time as the opening, and before said at least one first layer and said at least one second layer are superposed.

23. (New) The mat according to claim 22, wherein at least one binder in powder form is deposited separately from the at least one binder in the form of a liquid, said at least one binder in the form of a powder being poured onto the said at least one second layer after the said at least first layer and the said at least second layer are superposed.

C 24. (New) A composite comprising:

at least one of an organic material and an inorganic material; and

at least one mat comprising:

at least one first layer of at least one strand formed of filaments that are at least partly opened; and

at least one second layer of at least one strand formed of filaments which are held together within the strand,

wherein said at least one first layer has a filament dispersion gradient.

25. (New) A composite comprising:

at least one of an organic material and an inorganic material; and

at least one mat comprising:

at least one first layer of at least one strand formed of filaments that are at least partly opened; and

at least one second layer of at least one strand formed of filaments,

wherein at least one binder in the form of a liquid is deposited onto said at least one first layer after said at least one first layer has been at least partly opened and/or at the same time as the opening, and before said at least one first layer and said at least one second layer are superposed.